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A Man Who Thought and Saw and Acted.

In JAMES STILLMAN, reticent, straight thinking, far sighted, indefatigable and earnestly conscientious, the great merchant whose daring, based on knowledge and guided by high intelligence, turns potentialities into actualities, was exemplified. To call him a banker is to restrict unjustly the scope of his genius. His work was not with ledgers and account books; he wrought in industries, in nations, in continents. Of his kind America has had many; none served the country and its people better than he.

Men like Mr. STILLMAN work for something more worth while than personal gain. Adventurous spirits, ruled by compelling ambition, though they shun political life, they influence the development of national institutions. Mr. STILLMAN worked for the development of the possibilities of his country. He had confidence in its solidity, its future. The thought that constantly urged him on was the supreme necessity of building for an economic and industrial to-morrow of possibilities so great they cannot be measured by any standard of the past. To him large transactions were not ends in themselves, but instruments admirable only in that they might be useful in still larger transactions, all having for their ultimate purpose the orderly and proper development for man's benefit of the resources of nature.

These tasks are not for one man to accomplish. Many minds, many hands, the wealth of many purses, must be united in harmonious cooperation to attain the end desired. Thus the corporation becomes essential, if progress is to be made in the way and at the rate its leaders long for. But one man directs the whole, with that true caution which to the ignorant or blind sometimes appears as bravado or folly. Such a guide was JAMES STILLMAN, and his monument will be reared in tremendous victories of peace and war yet to be won. It is not completed now, nor left half finished at his death. The real memorial to this notable American will be the successive and continuous benefits conferred on his country by the instrumentalities of sound business to the foundation or expansion of which he devoted informed faith and unstinted labor.

Growth of Pro-Ally Sentiment in South America.

Although the complete results of the election have not yet been compiled, a despatch from Buenos Ayres confidently predicts the unquestioned triumph of the radicals, the pro-Ally party. This undoubtedly signifies the return to Washington of Ambassador NAON, whose resignation early in January was an expression of his disapproval of the Argentine policy of neutrality in the face of the Luxemburg disclosures.

There is, however, no reason to believe that Argentina will immediately undertake an active participation in the war. The sentiment of the people has undergone a decided change since the publication of Count LIXNA's telegrams. At one time the feeling against Germany was so intense that a break with the Central Powers was voted by both branches of the Argentine Congress. Hostilities were, however, averted by the persistent refusal of President LAGORRA to sanction the signing of a declaration of war.

The position that is now taken in Argentina is that the country would be able to give little assistance to the Allies in the matter of furnishing troops. The aid that she is most likely to furnish is in the shipment of food supplies. An agreement relating to wheat has already been entered into between Argentina and the United States and England. Similar negotiations regarding the export of meat and hides are now in progress. Argentina is also desirous of a better understanding regarding trade relations with the United States. This is evidently one of the matters that will be adjusted upon the return of Ambassador NAON.

The statement from Buenos Ayres is to the effect that President

COHEN "may be trusted, despite strong German influences, to choose the right moment to find the best means for giving expression to the public sentiment." This sentiment has been so completely expressed both by the action of the people and their votes that Argentina will no longer be a place for German propaganda in South America. Chile in her recent election also declared in favor of the Allies. The elimination of these two once pronounced centers of German influence makes the South American continent practically united against the Central Powers.

A Welcome Decision.

Notwithstanding the great weight which attaches to any recommendation made by General FRANKLIN, public sentiment is much more likely to endorse than condemn the unanimous decision of the Senate Military Committee to reject his suggestion that the laws giving 50 per cent. extra pay to our aviators be repealed.

Whatever were the considerations which moved General FRANKLIN to make this recommendation, and the Secretary of War to endorse it, we may be sure that they were not trivial. Yet it will require something more than technical statistics of aviation, as compared with other dangers of war, to convince the lay mind that flying and fighting in the air are not only extra hazardous, but that they demand a highly specialized skill which only those endowed with distinctive qualities of mental alertness and coolness in the face of deadly danger can acquire.

Such qualities developed by corresponding special training command extra pay in civilian work. It would seem wholly reasonable that they should command it in work that is military. General CROWN's statement that the large number of recent fatalities in the aviation training camps were due to inexperience, if it carries argumentative conviction at all, would seem to make rather for than against the extra pay. The high cost in peril of acquiring the skill his profession demands is part of the price the aviator has to pay. It is a stern school from which he must be graduated. Its punishments are swift and merciless. Whether a demerit be from infraction of rules or from mere ineptitude, sentence and execution are simultaneous. They come, moreover, in terms of broken bones or death itself. There is no appeal save to the hospital or the undertaker.

The alumnus of so harsh an alma mater as this surely is entitled to some distinction, in pay at least, for the relentless, survival of the fittest ordeal he has passed, even though in the practice of his acquired profession among the clouds and among bursting shells and splitting machine gun fire the statistics show that his percentage of danger may not greatly exceed that in other branches of the service.

The Epitaphical Style of Two Mayors From Brooklyn.

New York has had as Mayor two Brooklyn Judges fond of writing letters. Judge GAYNOR had more than three years as a letter writing Mayor; Judge HYLAN had less than three months. The notable missives of the first have been preserved in book form; quality and quantity must determine whether equal distinction shall fall upon the present epistolographer in City Hall.

In the letters of both Mayors are found comments on matters supposed to affect what is broadly known as "public morals." Mr. HYLAN's communication to his Police Commissioner on the subject of Miss MOLLER's dancing is still fresh in the memory:

"I am amazed to think the trustees of the Metropolitan Opera House and the subscribers to that institution would tolerate such an exhibition. I wish you would see to it that no more such exhibitions are staged at the Metropolitan or at any other theatre in the city. If the same occurred in a theatre patronized by plain people some of these good people who patronize the Metropolitan would consider the town wide open and would indignantly protest. I want you to see to it that the good people who attend the Metropolitan Opera House do not have their morals corrupted."

When in 1910 it was proposed to show in this city the moving pictures of the fight between JEFFERIES and JOHNSON a Brooklyn clergyman wrote to Mayor GAYNOR protesting against such an exhibition; and Mr. GAYNOR replied as follows:

"I thank you for your favor of July 6. If it lay in my power to say whether the pictures should be exhibited I would not take me long to decide it. I do not see how it can do any one any good to look at them. But will you be so good as to remember that ours is a government of laws and not of men? Will you please get that well into your head? I am not able to do as I like as Mayor. I must take the law just as it is, and you may be absolutely certain that I shall not take the law into my own hands. You say you are glad to see that the Mayors of many cities have 'ordered' that these pictures shall not be exhibited. Indeed! Who set them up as autocrats? If there be some valid law giving any Mayor such power that he can exercise it; otherwise not. The growing exercise of arbitrary power in this country by those put in office would be far more dangerous and is far more to be dreaded than certain other vices that we all wish to minimize or be rid of."

A more delightful example of WILLIAM J. GAYNOR's method of dealing with reformers is his letter of June 7, 1911, to E. H. JONES:

"I am in receipt of your letter saying that all clubs should be closed at 10 o'clock at night, also all saloons, and

that piano playing and singing should not be allowed at any hour of the night, especially in summer, when people cannot close their windows so as to shut the noise out.

"I hereby authorize you to carry out all of these reforms. It may be that you will first have to get elected to the Legislature, and pass laws therefor, for you know this is a government of laws and not of men; that is to say, those put in office may not do as they like, but may only carry out the laws as they are passed by the Legislature. Did you never hear of this before?"

It would be unfair to Judge HYLAN to suggest that in the forty-five months of his Mayoralty that he is ahead he will not write letters quite as perfect as those which flowed from the GAYNOR pen. There are so many letters by GAYNOR and, at the moment, so few by HYLAN. Commissioner EXNER has been, so far, the most favored recipient. It was to him that Mayor HYLAN wrote, in part, as follows:

"I note by the morning papers that the Committee of Fourteen has again come to life, several months after Mayor MITCHELL has retired from office, with a report on vice conditions during his administration. As a committee little has been heard of it during the last four years, but prior to election some of its members had become very active in an attempt to interfere with the electorate of the city.

"I do not know whether this was caused by the membership on the Committee of Fourteen of WILLIAM HAMLIN CHILDS, chairman of the late Fusion slush fund amounting to several millions which was used in an attempt to re-elect Mayor MITCHELL, whose administration they now condemn, or EDWARD J. MCGURIN, who was to deliver the Irish vote to the late Mayor along with TIM HEALY, who was to deliver the labor vote.

"I wish you would carefully read the report of the Committee of Fourteen and even at this late date, regardless of its source, remedy any evil that may exist.

"I think that it would be a good idea if the Committee of Fourteen would investigate itself and revise its membership. Otherwise the people of this city will have little confidence in them or any reports they may make in future. I take this as the beginning of an attempt on the part of these distinguished reformers to cast discredit on the present administration."

Mayor GAYNOR had his own way of striking at the opposition, and when he was at his best it was not exactly in the HYLAN fashion, possessing as he did an ingenuity that even the victim must have smiled over. There was his letter to Mr. FRANK L. DAVIS:

"DEAR MR. DAVIS: You complain to me of the clock on the Metropolitan Building. You want me to stop it. You say it strikes four times on the quarter, eight times on the half, twelve times on the three-quarters, and sixteen times on the hour, making forty times every hour, or 210 times from 8 A. M. to 12 noon every day. I am sorry for you. But really, does the clock make as much noise as Dr. PARKHURST does? You know we all have to bear with something, and I am willing to bear my share of it."

The old Judge did not always thrust so lightly, to be sure. In a letter about another man of the cloth he was Johnsonian:

"He is a man of vast and varied mis-information, of brilliant mental incapacity, and of prodigious moral requirements."

It is likely that the public enjoyed Mayor GAYNOR's letters most when he wrote of the trivial things of life, such as comfort to the man who was kept awake at nights:

"DEAR MR. GIBBONS: I regret to say that I have so many official duties pressing upon me that I cannot just now devote any time to the tomatoes, as you request by your letter. There are a few in my neighborhood, but I go to sleep and let them howl. It amuses them and doesn't hurt me. But some say it is the puscycats that howl, and not the tomatoes. How is that?"

Mayor GAYNOR was a born letter writer. Whether Mayor HYLAN enjoys the gift it will be impossible to say until he has issued at least two dozen letters. The late Mayor once said, when he was asked about letter writing:

"What is this you want—just a word about the art of letter writing? I fear you will find no art in my letters. I only aim to express what I have in my mind briefly and in the most expressive words. The most expressive words are short words. . . . The trouble with most writers and speakers is that they are all the time 'trying.' Don't try—just write or say what you mean. . . . What is the best way to write things? You ask. Often the best way is not to write them."

Perhaps Mayor GAYNOR had an art: the art of artlessness. He had the art of putting a lot in a few words, such as the last sentence of the paragraph just quoted. It will be easy for HYLAN to surpass GAYNOR in quantity. Quality is another thing.

Work, To Leaders, Work!

A month ago the man who before reaching the half century mark had acquired a competency and retired to loaf and invite his soul in New Jersey was admired, praised, envied. If his success had been great, and his taste beckoned him to the golf links, to a high powered motor, to tennis, he betook himself to his pastimes with an air of conscious superiority. "When I quit business" he began his conversations, and the unfortunate who could not quit business smiled as they bated him.

Others had ambitions less costly to gratify. A small income, unpretentious

house, a hunting or fishing trip modestly undertaken, an occasional visit to the movies, an evening with beer and congenial fellowship in the village inn; these spelled contentment for hundreds of unassuming souls. For them, too, there was envy. "Look at BILLY; he got his pile, and Gosh, I wish I could quit!" A "pile," he it recalled, may take six figures to express, or it may take four.

These men, conspicuous or obscure, were once held up as examples to the young. "They know how to live; no useless grind for them; they don't hoard money merely to give their heirs something to fight about; sensible, they are." So public opinion.

But all things are changed now. These once lucky ones, great and small, are lawbreakers, liable to arrest, to imprisonment. Labor is decreed the legal end of most men, as it is the natural end of most of us. The constable and the Sheriff spy out the lover of ease. They hale him to the Judge. The penitentiary doors open for him; he will sweat for a wage or he will sweat for the State. And, worst fate of all, he may be brought before a magistrate whose conception of his official function urges him to moral and economic discourses of great length and truly amazing vindictiveness.

"Come on in; the chaos is fine!" about the Bolsheviks to the world.

With the passage of the daylight saving bill assured, beware the fester who seeks to make an engagement between 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock on Easter Sunday morning.

What are you going to do with your extra hour of daylight?

Too much mail going to the front—Newspaper headline.

The trouble is it is not going to the front. It is held up in various places, for various reasons. If it were going to the front there would be no cause for complaint.

A conscientious citizen is one who will get up at 2 A. M. to set his clock forward.

Who shall take over Captain VANDERBILT's vessel?

Anyways, there must be a healthy real estate boom in Moscow.

ABSORBED.

Upon hearing that a burglar was breaking into the house of a distant friend a worthy man sent word: "I know that you are a fine, brave, husky fellow; knock the stuffing out of the intruder!"

Presently the victim replied: "Pinocchio is everything to me, and I am busy playing it. I trust that the burglar will knock the stuffing out of the intruder!"

The military purposes for which neutral vessels found within the limits of belligerent authority may be seized and destroyed or otherwise used for military purposes is the subject of the present German Government to deny the existence of the right except on the American announced by the Kaiser to Ambassador Gerard that all international law has been abolished!

The right of angary, so far as it applies to ships, is most admirably stated in the United States Naval War Code of 1909 as follows:

"If military necessity should require it, neutral vessels found within the limits of belligerent authority may be seized and destroyed or otherwise used for military purposes. The amount of the indemnity should be paid to the owner of the vessel; due regard must be had for treaty stipulations upon these matters."

The military purposes for which neutral vessels may thus be appropriated include the transportation of food products which may be needed in war, the transport of munitions, and the transport of troops. The proposed action in respect to the Dutch vessels appears to be fully justified by law and precedent; only we must take care to compensate the owners in Holland amply for all we make of their property.

AMERICA'S TASK.

The People Will Respond When They Know the Need.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The end is not yet. Bolshevikism has run its course to the fate of those who dream that human nature can have yet overcome the inherited instincts of hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of greedy savagery. The German beast, its cunning unrelenting its blood hunger revealed, has broken the eastern bounds and batters at them on the west. What can be done? That is the vital question for America.

Germany has passed the low tide of economic distress. An increase in food and essential raw material supply must be expected from the Prussian conquest, enabling her to meet the European allies on commensurate terms in those respects. If she can hold in the west she must grow stronger, for even man-power may be supplied from the Russian provinces properly Prussianized.

Even so, the German war effort, even now, is not successful. It is not a satisfactory peace; but it is not to be expected that England will risk her all on a gambler's chance. Overwhelming allied air supremacy may prove conclusive. It must be striven for with might and main, but whether obtainable is purely a military question.

Only one thing is demonstrably certain, that is that if America is prepared to place and maintain 10,000,000 men, fully trained, armed and supplied, on the western front within a reasonably short time the war can and will be won. It is as demonstrably certain that anything much short of this leaves the issue more than in doubt. These are the plain facts, and they are within any one's grasp.

If the American people once understand them they will give to the task, and we shall at least ascertain whether the job is or is not too big for us; whether we are or are not capable of every personal comfort and interest and spend our time, our money and our manhood beyond anything as yet conceived of. Only thus can the most stupendous task ever undertaken by any nation be accomplished.

That the public does not appreciate the situation is the situation is obvious. Enlightenment must come from those in high places who know the facts. Let them be stated fully and plainly to the people, and they will give the only possible answer to their leaders—raise, train and equip in 1918 at least 2,000,000 men; in 1919 at least 4,000,000 more; if it is necessary to change the draft law limits do so. Bend every conceivable effort to provide vessels and terminal facilities at home and abroad for transport and supply, but under no circumstances fail to raise and train the allotted number of troops. They will either win the war or the field of France, or the fate for that will be decided for the protection of our own shores. Your difficulties we appreciate, but we know they can be overcome.

Centralize control in the hands of a few able men. Success is attainable; failure to heed our will never be forgiven or forgotten. DEAN SAGE.

New York, March 15.

The First in the Field.

From the Detroit Free Press. Long are they ask us why the incubators are empty and the brood is so small. The golf bug will be baffling. Fore!

## THE RIGHT OF ANGRY.

The action of the United States and Great Britain in assuming the custody, control and operation of a large number of Dutch ships, now in American and British waters, has been a puzzle to many persons who are not informed concerning the legal rights of belligerents as to neutral property found within their territorial limits in time of war. The rule which the Entente Allies propose to apply in the case of these Dutch steamers is known in international law as the right of angary, from the Greek word "angaros," meaning a messenger.

In the Middle Ages a practice arose among the belligerent nations of Europe which came to be called the "jus angary," or right of transport. Under this right a belligerent nation has the right to lay an embargo and seize neutral merchantmen in its harbors and compel them and their crews to transport troops, ammunition and provisions where desired, on payment, however, of the freight and the cost of the rendition of the service. In 1798 a part of the French expedition to Egypt was conveyed thither in neutral vessels which had been seized in various harbors in France. Admiral Charles H. Stockton, an American authority on international law, says:

"This ancient right has fallen into disuse and is to a great extent supplanted by a modern right under the same name which comprises the right of belligerents to make use of or destroy, for the purpose of naval warfare, the neutral property on the high seas or the territories of either belligerent."

A condition of the exercise of this right continues to be the payment of adequate compensation to the neutral whose property is appropriated.

The right of angary was exercised by Prussia during the Franco-Prussian war in 1870-71. Some British coal vessels were lying in the Seine below Paris. The Prussians sank these craft so as to prevent French gunboats from going up the river to the relief of Paris, and after the war Bismarck compensated the British Government for the loss.

The right of angary is the right of a belligerent to seize neutral property on land as well as to neutral property on the sea. The Prussians seized toward of 600 cars belonging to the Swiss Central Railway Company which they found in Alsace in the Franco-Prussian war, and also a quantity of rolling stock owned in Austria. These precedents might be taken as the basis of the German Government to deny the existence of the right except on the American announced by the Kaiser to Ambassador Gerard that all international law has been abolished!

The right of angary, so far as it applies to ships, is most admirably stated in the United States Naval War Code of 1909 as follows:

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## THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE.

It is God's gift to us and sufficient for our needs.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The letter of Mr. Alfred Z. Reed about the English language has moved me to write concerning my clear opinions, and inasmuch as the English people have expressed no preference in the matter, I feel at more liberty to do so.

Our language is like the Mississippi River, or like the Thames River. The Thames is properly called an English river. The water for it comes from the ocean. The Lord lets the rain fall upon the just and the unjust, and it comes from the ocean, and our language comes originally from the four quarters of the earth.

When it flows through America and does service for us, I see no reason for not calling it the American language. It is in reality God's gift to us, and unless we wish foreign changes, it is sufficient for our needs. We should help those who seek us to learn our way of speech.

JOHN LAWSON.

COLLINGSWOOD, N. J., March 16.

A Desire to Be Practiced in the Practice of Words.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: As this Sun has a worldwide reputation for its knowledge of the English language, I venture to intrude upon your valuable space and ask you a question which has created a slight discussion between myself and a friend. "Practice medicine in Chicago and have a fine practice," is the above sentence should not a distinction be made between the noun practice and the verb? In other words, would it not have been more grammatical if the writer had written "I practise my profession," &c.?

New York, March 16. G. W. W.

NEW YORK'S GOVERNORS.

An Examination of the Records of Re-elected Statesmen.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In THE SUN of Monday, March 11, your Albany correspondent makes the following assertion:

"In other words, the Governor is a candidate for a third term and with an eye on the Republican nomination for the Presidency, he has decided to run for his life. No man save one was ever elected three times to be Governor of this State, but Mr. Whitman purposes to be the second."

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins was elected four times in succession, serving from 1807 to 1817, a period of ten years, and resigned in 1817, in the place of President, with James Monroe, and in 1801 was again elected for another term, 1801-04.

There still stands on the west side of the Bowery, just below Canal street, a building which though like the neighborhood has greatly changed its exterior appearance since the early days of this Sun remains still a landmark. It was here the Bowery Theatre was located, second in stage history to the Park Theatre. In 1833 there were appearing upon its boards at various times throughout that season many of the notable actors of the American stage. The elder Booth, receiving a salary of \$100 a night, is mentioned in the records of the theatre as owing to the management "\$17.50 advanced for one suit of clothes September 25, 1833." The same record bills of \$17.50 to Bing for Booth's "one suit of clothes for a time." Here also the famous Shakespearean representative of Falstaff, J. H. Hackett, was making his reappearance in his native country after a tour of England, appearing as Rip Van Winkle in the play made more famous in later years by Joseph Jefferson.

Since 1833 no Governor has been elected a third time, although several Governors have tried to be, as, for example, Horatio Seymour in 1864 and David B. Hill in 1894.

It might be stated that Horatio Seymour, twice Governor of New York State, was five times a candidate, twice successful, in 1833 and 1862, and three times unsuccessful, in 1850, 1864 and 1866. In 1876 he was nominated by the Democratic State convention, but declined the nomination on the score of ill health and Lucius Robinson was named instead.

Lieutenant-Governor David B. Hill became Governor in 1885 on the resignation of Grover Cleveland, who was to become President on March 4 of that year, and was re-elected in 1888 and in 1892, serving two full terms of three years each and the final year of Grover Cleveland's term, but met with defeat for a third election in 1894, when he was defeated by the Republican candidate, Charles F. Smith, who was elected Governor in 1894, being at the same time the senior United States Senator from this State.

Governor De Witt Clinton did not serve three full terms. He was elected in 1817 and 1820 for two full terms, but the constitutional convention of 1821 changed the term of the Governorship from three to two years, and so Clinton's second term was somewhat shortened, ending January 1, 1823. The term that he was elected for in